

CLASSIFICATION SECRET

NOFORN

COUNTRY East Germany REPORTTOPIC Kummersdorf Bomb RangeEVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                     

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DATE OF CONTENT                     DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 30 September 1955REFERENCES                     PAGES 4 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS                     

This is UNEVALUATED Information

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1. The following observations were made At Kummersdorf bomb range on 26 July and 16 August 1955:

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26 July. At about 1700, two formations of 4 Il-10s crossed over the Kummersdorf firing range at an altitude of about 700 meters and made circuits around the field at the same altitude. At intervals of about 30 seconds, the aircraft individually separated from formation, glided down to the firing range at an angle of about 25 degrees and down to an altitude of about 300 meters, then climbed back up behind the formation in the same. No bombs were dropped. ~~It was noted that the aircraft were probably manned by young pilots who presumably practiced approaching targets.~~

2. 16 August. At 1535, two close-order formations of 12 Il-10s each approached the firing range from the east at an altitude of about 2,500 meters. The two formations arrived at an interval of about 1 minute. Immediately after crossing the field border, the first formation dived at an angle of 30 to 35 degrees, all of the planes dropping one bomb each from an altitude of about 700 meters. Subsequently, the formation again climbed to the previous flight altitude, while the second formation performed the same exercise. Then, the procedure was repeated by the first and second formation. After these exercises, the two formations headed northeast. After an interval of 1 hour, the two formations repeated the exercises a second time and, after another hour, a third time. During the night, single-engine aircraft without set position lights practiced bombing. Light signals or direction searchlights were not observed at the field.

3. The following observations were made at Kummersdorf bomb range on 26, 27, 28 July and 1 August 1955:

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26 July. Flying was practiced by MiG-15s and U-MiG-15s between 0600 and 1200 and by Il-10s between 1400 and 1800.

27 July. There was air activity between 1400 and 1700.

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28 July. Il-10s practiced flying throughout the day.

1 August. Between 1200 and 2045, 4 MiG-15s were continuously observed aloft. The aircraft approached the firing range at altitudes between 3,000 and 4,000 meters and dropped practice bombs in a steep gliding flight, alternately winging over at short intervals. The low sound of denotation indicated that practice bombs were dropped. Firing with aircraft weapons was not heard. The aircraft came from the direction of Jueterbog and also returned in that direction.

4. Between 2130 and 2215 on several nights during the period from 15 to 22 August 1955, 3 or 4 aircraft dropped bombs which produced a particularly bright flash light while detonating. ~~The flash was unusual. The flash light was so bright that it illuminated even those rooms on that side of the building not facing the firing lane.~~ Three of 4 such bombs were dropped every evening.
5. Every day between 1 and 5 August, Il-10s, MiG-15s and MiG-17s approached the targets on the bomb range. At 0500 on 1 August, an alert was sounded. At about 0600, the first approach was made by a formation of 9 Il-10s at an altitude of about 800 meters coming from the northwest. The formation at first made a practice approach from an altitude of 900 to 600 meters. Subsequently, the same approach flight was made and each plane dropped 2 bombs. Then the close-order formation descended from 400 to 100 meters and fired with aircraft weapons on the same targets in Jagen (forest sub-district) 105, 106, 111, 114, 121 and 122 where AA and tank dummies were placed. At the end of the exercise, each plane again dropped 2 bombs from an altitude of 500 meters. Then the aircraft assembled in a circle about 4 km in diameter and alternately dived from an altitude of 800 meters to between 100 and 300 meters and fired with aircraft weapons or one rocket each.
6. The following detailed observations were made when the rocket was fired: At first, a gray black cloud of smoke was seen about 1 meter over the cabin. After 5 or 6 seconds, a loud hissing sound was heard for 2 or 3 seconds. Then the rocket hit the ground producing a dull detonation. The observation was made from a distance of 500 to 600 meters. It could not be determined where the rockets were fitted on the aircraft nor could the flying rocket or a trail of smoke be observed through field glasses.
7. The 9 Il-10s approached the targets 12 to 16 times. It was noted that aircraft also approached the targets without dropping bombs or firing. When the first formation of 9 Il-10s departed, the next wave of 9 aircraft appeared and some formations of 4 aircraft were seen in the meantime. Attacks were continuously made until 1400. The individual aircraft were marked by red and yellow propeller hubs and rudder assemblies. At 1500, 8 jet fighters approached from the southeast at an altitude of about 1,800 meters, crossed over the same targets and, in close-order formation, dived from the southeast to an altitude of 700 to 800 meters while firing with aircraft weapons. Subsequently the aircraft again climbed to about 1,800 meters and, west of the targets, the formation dispersed into 3, 3 and 2 aircraft which alternately attacked the targets Nos 105 and 106 with aircraft weapons. The attacks were repeated three times. After about 30 minutes, the next 8 jet fighters appeared and carried out the same exercises. Until about 2015 these practices were continuously repeated by MiG-fighters having only one pilot tube. The exercises observed on 1 August were repeated by Il-10s and MiG-15s on 2 August. The Il-10s aircraft had red and yellow markings.

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8. At about 2130 on 2 August, a jet bomber approached from the east-southeast at an altitude of about 1,000 meters and crossed twice over the target in west-northwest direction. There was a full moon and a cloudy sky. After 8 minutes, the aircraft crossed over the target range a third time. All of a sudden, very bright flashes were observed and remained seconds over the targets in Jagen 113, 114, 121 and 122 leaving a small gray black cloud of smoke behind. About 9 seconds after the flash light was seen, a detonation was heard; but, no glare of fire was observed from a distance of 1,200 meters. The aircraft could be seen when the light flashed up. After about 25 minutes, an Il-28 appeared and dropped two bombs within 2 or 3 minutes. A light flashed up twice, the first detonation was heard after 9 seconds, and the second detonation after another 2 or 3 seconds. These attacks were repeated by a jet bomber every 25 minutes. A total of 9 jet bombers were counted until about 0130 on 3 August.
9. The targets were marked as follows:
- About 2 minutes before an aircraft appeared, brick-red ground signals looking like a string of tracer ammunition rose lateral upward from the southwestern section of Jagen 32. This string consisted of 70 to 100 lights, which flashed up white for a short time at an altitude of about 300 meters. When the string of lights had extinguished, a large white ground signal flashed up for about 10 seconds at an altitude of about 300 meters and 100 meters west of the string of lights. No sound was heard when the lights flashed up. The observation was made from a distance of about 600 meters.
10. The following air activity was observed between 3 and 20 August 1955:
- 3 August. As on 1 August, there was air activity by Il-10s with red and yellow markings during the morning and by jet fighters during the afternoon after 1500.
- 4 and 5 August. Throughout the day, flying was practiced by Il-10s as on 1 August. The aircraft observed on 4 August had red markings and those on 5 August had yellow markings.
- 10 August. Formations of 3 and 4 Il-10s continuously attacked the AA and tank dummies between 0600 and 1300 and between 1430 and 2000. Each Il-10 carried 1 rocket and 4 bombs. The markings on the rudder assemblies and propeller hubs were red.
- 12 August. Single-engine aircraft attacked the targets from an altitude of about 600 meters, discharged rockets, and three times fired with aircraft weapons. Each aircraft carried 2 rockets.
- 13 August. At 1100, an Il-28 approached from the southeast at an altitude of about 1,000 meters and attacked the targets in Jagen 120. It was observed through field glasses that a gray black cloud of smoke about 1 meter in diameter rose over the target underneath the aircraft, but no sound was heard. After 16 seconds two faint and dull detonations were heard within the fragment of a second. The observations were made about 1.5 km from the point of impact. The same exercises were made by individual jet bombers and some formations of 3 jet bombers at intervals of 5 to 30 minutes until 1800.

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15, 16 and 17 August. Between 0700 and 1900, the targets in Jagen 105, 106, 112 and 114 were continuously attacked by Il-10s which dropped 4 bombs, 2 rockets and fired with aircraft weapons as on 1 August. The aircraft employed on 15 and 16 August had red propeller hubs and red markings on their ~~rotor assemblies~~. ~~The aircraft~~ observed flying on 17 August had ~~green~~ markings on their ~~rotor~~ assemblies and bronze-colored propeller hubs. Between 2100 and 2330 on 16 August, 3 Il-28s dropped bombs and the same bright flashes of light were observed as on 2 August.

18 August. Between 1300 and 1900, MiG-15s fitted with one pilot tube dropped bombs and fired with aircraft weapons as on 1 August.

20 August. Between 1100 and 1900, individual Il-28s attacked the targets.

11. The wooden area between the eastern boundary of the bomb range and the Kammersdorf - Spenberg railroad line was included into the field area. According to official information, a portion of the revier (major forest section) Linow - Werder/Markendorf training field and additional unidentified forest sections were to be confiscated by the Soviets.
1.  Comment. The flashing of lights ~~was~~ possibly produced by a self-destroying charge. Since the bomb ~~on~~ ~~to~~ the self-destroying bomb sections detonated with delay, the light ~~detonation~~ ~~was not accompanied by~~ glare of fire.
2.  Comment. The targets are marked by light AA fire.
3.  Comment. The description of the bombing practices is not quite precise. A re-interrogation will be made in order to determine the altitude at which the cloud of smoke was seen.

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